

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 20153 311243Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3302

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG EG IS

SUBJECT: GULF OF SUEZ ISSUE AT CAMP DAVID

1. AFTER SIGNING CEREMONY MORNING AUGUST 31 OF \$50 MILLION AGREEMENT FOR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTIVITY, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND PETROLEUM HILAL ASKED ME TO STAY BEHIND A FEW MOMENTS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON CAMP DAVID MEETING. AFTER STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF THESE TALKS AND HIS HOPES AND PRAYERS THAT THEY WOULD ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF PEACE, HILAL SAID THAT HE HAD ASKED PRESIDENT SADAT TO RAISE THE ISSUE OF EGYPTIAN ACCESS TO OIL EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION IN THE GULF OF SUEZ DURING SUMMIT MEETING. HILAL SAID HE WAS DISTURBED AT ISRAELI EXTRACTION OF OIL IN GULF OF SUEZ, BUT WAS EVEN MORE CONCERNED OVER EGYPTIAN INABILITY TO EXPAND THE RAMADAN AND JULY FILEDS ACROSS THE ISRAELI-DRAWN MEDIAN LINE. EGYPT WAS ANXIOUS TO EXPAND ITS PRODUCTION OF OIL IN ORDER TO MEET SADAT'S GOAL OF ONE MILLION BARRELS A DAY BY 1980, BUT WAS FRUSTRATED IN CONDUCTING FURTHER EXPLORATION BY ISRAEL'S REFUSAL TO PERMIT IT TO CROSS THE MEDIAN LINE. HE HAD THEREFORE ASKED SADAT TO BE SURE THIS SUBJECT WAS ON THE AGENDA FOR CAMP DAVID.

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2. HILAL ALSO RELATED THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN THE HAGUE THAT ISRAEL HAD DRAWN UP A 12-PAGE DOCUMENT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPPORTING ITS LEGAL POSITION ON MINERAL RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND OFFSHORE WATERS. HE EXPECTED TO RECEIVE THIS DOCUMENT FROM THE HAGUE SHORTLY AND WOULD SEND ME A COPY AS SOON AS IT WAS RECEIVED. I SAID I

WOULD BE INTERESTED TO SEE DOCUMENT AND NOTED THAT IN
GENERAL THE EGYPTIAN AND AMERICAN POSITIONS ON THIS WERE
THE SAME.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE HILAL'S CONFIDENCE THAT SADAT WILL
RAISE THE OIL ISSUE AT CAMP DAVID, MFA LEGAL ADVISER
NABIL EL ARABY TOLD ECON COUNS TODAY THAT FONMIN KAMEL
DID NOT WANT TO BRING THIS UP AT SUMMIT MEETING BUT
INSTEAD EL ARABY SHOULD DISCUSS IT WITH DEPARTMENT'S
LEGAL ADVISER'S OFFICE. WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS
THE PROBLEM IN CASE SADAT FOLLOWS HILAL'S RECOMMENDATION.
MATTHEWS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPLORATION, SUMMIT MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, GULFS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO20153
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780356-0001
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978081/aaaaaaafk.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5d87fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1535540
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GULF OF SUEZ ISSUE AT CAMP DAVID
TAGS: ENRG, PEPR, EG, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5d87fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014